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11. — *Hoaryhead and M'Donner*. By JACOB ABBOTT. Very greatly improved. With numerous Engravings. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1855. 24mo. pp. 402.

THIS story deserves a careful reading, not only for its bearing on practical religion, but for its able discussion of the problem of the human will. The theory which it maintains is, that the will is under a necessity imposed by the moral nature; that it can be turned in a religious direction only by the Divine influence; and, consequently, that prayer, — the revealed condition of that influence, — is the point at which alone the necessity of the moral agent becomes freedom, and he exerts, or rather voluntarily procures from the Supreme Being the exercise of, transforming power over his own character. This indeed is confessedly the literal doctrine of revelation. The only alternative is to explain away the distinctive sense of Scripture, or to construct a philosophy of the will in accordance with that sense; and Mr. Abbott has adopted the latter course with eminent success.

12. — *The Age of Fable, or Stories of Gods and Heroes*. By THOMAS BULFINCH. Boston: Sanborn, Carter, and Bazin. 1855. 12mo. pp. 485.

MR. Bulfinch's object is to furnish the English reader with such information as to the mythology of the Greeks, the Romans, and the Northern nations, as will enable him to understand mythological references and allusions in earlier and current literature. This was a desideratum, and he has more than supplied it. He has told in pure and graceful English all the principal stories within his professed scope, has given to a considerable extent the various renderings of the same story, and has garnished his chapters with a choice series of illustrative quotations from the poets. An alphabetical index at the close makes the work equivalent in value to a classical dictionary. We thus have, we believe for the first time, a "Pantheon," which might hold an unchallenged place in the drawing-room, or be read, with no shock to the moral nature, by a child of tender years. The book needs only to be known, to be widely esteemed, and welcomed into general use.